

Service Date: November 6, 1998

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER Of The Application	)	UTILITY DIVISION
Of Cut Bank Gas For Authority	)	DOCKET NO. D98.10.255
To Increase Charges for Natural Gas	)	INTERIM ORDER NO. 6116
Service.	)	

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Cut Bank Gas (Applicant) applied to this Commission for an order authorizing an increase in the rates Applicant charges for natural gas service. The application sought authority to raise rates in order to reflect all cost increases resulting from Montana Power Company's (Company) Docket No. D98.10.217.

2. On November 4, 1998, the Commission's Interim Order No. 6114a granted Montana Power Company a natural gas rate increase.

3. Order No. 6114a will result in increased purchased gas costs to Applicant.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Applicant is a "public utility" within the meaning of Section 69-3-101, MCA.

2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the Applicant's Montana operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

3. Section 69-3-304, MCA, provides in part, "The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases or decreases pending a hearing or final decision."

4. The rate levels and spread approved herein are reasonable. The rebate provisions of Section 69-3-304, MCA protect ratepayers in the event that any revenue authorized by this order are found to be unjustified in the final order in this Docket.

ORDER

1. Applicant is hereby granted interim relief reflecting Findings of Fact in this order.

2. Such relief is to become effective for services rendered on and after November 4, 1998, and remain in effect until such time as a final decision is reached in this matter.
3. The rates shall be collected upon a constant uniform cents per Mcf basis.
4. Interim revenues granted herein are subject to rebate should the final order in this Docket disapprove this interim revenue.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana this 4 day of November by a 5 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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DAVE FISHER, Chairman

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NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

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BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

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DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

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BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.